

Public Chapter 167

HOUSE BILL NO. 284

By Representative Walley

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 466

By Senator Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 22, relative to issuance of temporary licenses by the board for professional counselors, and marital and family therapists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 22, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) A temporary license may be issued by the board to a marital and family therapist applicant who has completed the academic course work and training required for the license sought; provided, in order to retain such temporary license, the applicant must take the written examination, required by the board, the first time it is scheduled following issuance of the temporary license. The applicant must successfully pass the exam within two (2) years following issuance of the temporary license.

(b) A temporary license obtained pursuant to this section authorizes the applicant to engage in the practice of marital and family therapy, as defined by Section 63-22-115(a)(8), under the supervision of an approved supervisor, as defined by Sections 63-22-115(a)(2) and (10).

(c) In order to receive a temporary license, the applicant must submit to the board the following:

(1) A completed application for a temporary license,

(2) Satisfactory evidence of an agreement with an approved supervisor under whose supervision the applicant intends to practice, and

(3) All appropriate fees.

(d) A temporary license shall be non-renewable and shall be valid for a period of not more than three (3) years. Within such three (3) year period, the applicant must submit to the board an application for the regular license and must present supporting documentation demonstrating the satisfactory completion of the required amount of post-master's degree supervised experience in a clinical setting under an approved supervisor. The board shall then grant or deny the application for the regular license, based on satisfactory completion of all requirements for licensure, including the oral examination. If the

board approves or denies the application for the regular license or if the board revokes the temporary license for any reason, then the temporary license shall cease to be valid and must be returned to the board.

(e) The holder of a temporary license as a marital and family therapist shall not represent himself or herself to be a licensed marital and family therapist. The holder of such a license may only represent himself or herself to be a "marital therapy intern", a "family therapy trainee", or such other title designation that clearly reflects trainee status and temporary licensure.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.